

## Singapore Raptors Report Autumn Migration, October 2008

### Summary :

This year's records for October were a surprise when compared to last year. To be fair, we only started collecting the records in the middle of the month in 2007. Many of the migrant raptors reported this month were not expected. We had an impressive total of **11** species of migrant raptors which to my best estimate came up to 59 raptors. **17 Oriental Honey Buzzards** formed the largest group followed by **Black Bazas** with 11 counted. Ding Li had an early arrival for the **Common Kestrel** flying over at Jalan Boon Lay on the 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Our first **Chinese Sparrowhawk** on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Lower Pierce after reports of thousands over at Thailand. The **Osprey** seemed to have taken the Kranji area as their favourite haunt with the first report on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A single **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at downtown Capital Square on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful video clip of the bird tearing a pigeon apart. This was followed by sightings at Thomson, Kranji, and later at Changi and Hume Heights.



*Common Buzzard by Jimmy Chew taken at Changi Cove on the 26<sup>th</sup> October graced this month cover.*

A single **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was reported by at Kranji Nature Trail on the 16<sup>th</sup> and by 26<sup>th</sup> there were more sightings across the island. The first **Black Baza** was spotted and photographed at Bukit Batok West on the 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a small flock of 8 birds thermaling over Sime forest the next day. We had an early **Common Buzzard** on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Lorong Halus seen. The second was reported at its favourite haunt at Changi during the bird race on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Those who went to Changi Cove for the Bird Race were rewarded with 2 Harriers species, the common **Eastern Marsh**, a very rare **Northern (Hen) Harrier**. Gim Cheong and Con Foley got the first **Black Kite** of the season at Changi on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

## **RESIDENT RAPTORS**

### **Summary:**

Both the **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites** as expected topped the list with 17 and 16 birds recorded. This was followed by 9 **Changeable Hawk-eagles**, confirming the healthy population of this nationally threatened *spizaetus*. This number was very similar to those recorded for September confirming a stable population. The **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** was still seen around our central catchment reservoirs. Chung Cheong had the second record for the **Crested Serpent Eagle** with a sighting of one flying over Sime Forest on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore Forum  
Edited and layout by Kenneth Kee. Many thanks to the numerous contributions and reports from the birders.  
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